

Intelligence is necessary for a nation's progress. It is a great sin for the Catholic worshippers to read a book which is on the catalogue of condemned books censored by church officials. Nearly all Socialist works have been barred through command from an ambitious Catholic. Among these books condemned by the church, Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables." If few men have the power to dictate to millions what they should think of read, is it not a menace to the country?

I am not attacking individuals. These are statements which I challenge any honest Catholic to disprove. The Day Book is fair to all and if it has the nerve to publish this, "the truth," in its columns, hats off to our FREE PRESS. — Mark Taple-ice.

**ABSURDITY OF WAR PREPARATIONS.**—Those who are advocating a large standing army in this country and the expenditure of millions for more battleships and armaments do not seem to realize that this policy means planting the same weed in our gardens that is destroying the countries of Europe. The question arises, have arms and armaments saved anything or anybody in Europe?

I recently attended a picture show representing two burglars in one room while the owner of the house arose from his bed and, taking a pistol from under the pillow, opened the door very softly, just in time to be shot dead by one of the burglars who was preparing to leap out of the window with \$50 worth of silverware.

The picture story was not intended to show the folly of a man protecting his house with a gun, but those of the audience who were thoughtful could not escape recognizing the moral involved, viz., if he had not attempted to protect his house with a gun his life would have been saved.

This interpretation is completely

borne out among individuals as well as nations, for the statistics of the past five years in this country show that 90 per cent of the thousands killed by burglars would have been saved if they had not been armed, and 100 per cent of the thousands of accidental shootings by adults and small children would have been avoided except for the false notion that a pistol must be kept in the house for "protection," though it has always proven a menace to good people as well as bad, to nations as well as individuals.

The idea of further armament in this country is ridiculous, as arms do not protect from war, but invite war. Increased armies and armaments do not insure peace, but destroys peace. The growth of a military caste in any country that perpetuates military ideals through the medium of schools, church and the press is the most dangerous policy that confronts the American people.

Those who know what wars can do and will study the temper and character of the one now in progress will be convinced that final peace will only be reached under conditions that will do away with war for centuries to come, making any armies, armaments or preparedness on the part of America unnecessary and obsolete, for it is already certain that the great battleships named after the various states are destined to the scrap-heap.—Parker H. Sercombe.

**CONCERNING SCALPING.**—Just to show how the loop theaters work the ticket racket I'm going to relate my personal experience with the La Salle. Previous to this occurrence the wife and myself took in a loop show about once a month. Needless to say, since then we have been content with local color.

The Saturday night before Christmas I stepped up to the La Salle box office and asked for two seats, 3d or 4th row, for Christmas night. The ticket agent informed me the tickets